

February 27, 2007

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 27, 2007

A Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, February 27, 2007, at 5:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Steven R. Taylor, Mayor
Brenda S. Pelham, Vice Mayor
Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Councilor
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor
Kenneth B. Emerson, Councilor
E. Randy Sealey, Councilor
N. Gregory Cuffey, Councilor

Robert S. Herbert, Interim City Manager
Edwin N. Wilmot, City Attorney
Ann M. Romano, City Clerk

Mayor Taylor opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey	-	present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

WORK SESSION - TO DISCUSS RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR RESIDENTS OF THE BLUFFS APARTMENTS SHOULD THE CITY'S PURCHASE BE APPROVED BY HUD

City Manager Herbert opened the Work Session to discuss relocation assistance for residents of the Bluffs Apartments should the City's purchase be approved by HUD. Assistant City Manager Altman assumed the presentation.

Relocation Assistance Options – The Bluffs Acquisition

Relocation Assistance

- Portable Section 8 Vouchers
- Locally Determined Assistance
- Uniform Relocation Act (1970)

Section 8 Vouchers

- HUD will determine if the current Project Base Section 8 Vouchers are eligible for conversion to Portable Section 8 Vouchers.
- If HUD determines the Vouchers are eligible, then HUD will contact HRHA to assist with individual eligibility reviews of each tenant to determine if the tenant is qualified for the Section 8 Voucher Program.
- If the tenant qualifies, he/she will receive a Portable Section 8 Voucher that can be used to relocate to another Section 8 eligible property anywhere in the United States.
- If the tenant does not qualify, then he/she will not receive a Section 8 Voucher.
- Tenants must stay until the Project Based Section 8 Contract with the Development expires to be eligible for the Voucher.

- Tenants that leave prior to expiration of the contract will not receive a Voucher.

Locally Determined

- Relocation Assistance Options:
 - ❖ Pay Deposit on rent/lease; or
 - ❖ Pay Deposits on utilities (based on utilities the tenant paid prior to relocation); or
 - Electricity
 - Water
 - Gas
 - Telephone
 - Cable Television
 - ❖ Pay Moving Expenses within a determined distance (ex. 25 miles); or
 - ❖ Pay Amount of money directly to tenant based on unit type; or
 - ❖ Pay a set amount of money directly to tenant.
- Objective is not to cause any additional burden to the tenant.

Uniform Relocation Act

- Establishes Minimum Standards for Federally Funded Programs and Project that require the acquisition of real estate or displace persons from their homes.
- Applies to acquisition, rehabilitation, or demolition of real property for federal or federally funded projects.
- Act does not apply
 - ❖ Property is not being acquired as part of a federally funded program or project; and
 - ❖ No federal funds are being utilized or requested as part of the purchase.

DISCUSSION:

There was lengthy discussion about a number of issues:

Home ownership vouchers; criteria for Section 8 vouchers; background checks; HUD approval of the purchase by the City of the Bluffs; the purchase price is \$3.18 Million. Staff was asked to explore what would happen if HUD does not give approval by September 2007; and what the City's liability would be to the tenants. When the Finance Director was asked to get figures and make a determination based on current housing developments in the City, he was admittedly working on assumptions. Staff was directed to get back with Council and put in writing the kinds of things we really can do. The presentation was appreciated but it was not enough. Part of the problem with HUD is because it is investigating us because of a complaint that was filed against the City.

Another Work Session was scheduled for the second Council meeting in March (March 27, 2007), for staff to bring back more information. It is crucial to deal with HUD immediately because if they turn us down we will have to go back to the drawing board. The process was well received by the voters. We must keep on the subject of how to assist the tenants of the Bluffs. Keep in mind that the City Manager will only be with us for three more weeks.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:45 PM **motion** was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to Convene into Closed Session to discuss Personnel, and Appointments to Boards and Commissions, in accordance with Virginia Code § 2.2-3711 (A) (1). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

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Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes

At 7:45 PM Mayor Taylor announced that Council had been in Closed Session and had not concluded their business. They would resume the Closed Session after the Regular Business meeting.

Mayor Taylor opened the regular meeting at 7:45 PM. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Taylor	-	present
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	present
Councilor Bailey		present
Councilor Harris	-	present
Councilor Emerson	-	present
Councilor Sealey	-	present
Councilor Cuffey	-	present

Prayer was offered by Councilor–Ward #1, Rev. Curtis W. Harris, Sr., Pastor, Union Baptist Church, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to approve the Consent Agenda: Minutes-Regular Meeting February 13, 2007; Personnel Change Report; Public Hearings Announcements: None; Routine Approval of Work Sessions: None; Ordinances on second and final reading: None; Proclamations/Resolutions/Presentations: Sheriff's Deputy David Silvestro Proclamation Presentation; Joy Taylor Gilliam (*deceased*) Proclamation for making and being a part of Hopewell's history; C. Ray Edmonds Proclamation recognizing him as first African/American elected official in Hopewell; and, Rev. Dr. Curtis W. Harris, Sr. Proclamation recognizing him as first African/American Mayor of Hopewell. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

Mayor Taylor and Vice Mayor Pelham presented a Proclamation of Appreciation to Sheriff's Deputy David Silvestro offering congratulations and best wishes to David Silvestro for his exemplary service and support to the City of Hopewell, Virginia.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, David W. Silvestro has been a Deputy Sheriff with the Hopewell Sheriff's Department since January 1, 2006; and

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WHEREAS, he was educated in the Hopewell schools and is a life-long resident of the City of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, he works an additional 40-50 hours a month, without pay, in support of the Hopewell Police Department; and

WHEREAS, some of what he does above and beyond the call of duty include: numerous DUI arrests, vehicle drug stops, assisting the Hopewell Police Department with auto accidents, provides escort during funerals, numerous foot pursuits resulting in felony arrests, recovered stolen vehicles, arrested teens for vandalism/arson, arrests made during a Breaking and Entering, recovery of one shotgun/handgun, arrests resulting in recovery of a handgun and felon confessed to multiple other robberies in Hopewell, recovered drugs including marijuana, cocaine, and crack cocaine, and vehicles confiscated for suspended license, no license or identification.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Taylor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Hopewell do hereby proclaim congratulations and best wishes to

DAVID SILVESTRO

for his exemplary service and support to the City of Hopewell, Virginia.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed this 13th day of February, 2007.

/s/ Mayor Steven R. Taylor

Deputy Silvestro indicated that the Sheriff's Department serves 900-1500 papers per month. They have good teamwork with the Hopewell Police Department. Vice Mayor Pelham shared that she recently went to a funeral in Petersburg and Deputy Silvestro pulled someone who had cut into the funeral line. She was very appreciative of his efforts.

Mayor Taylor and Vice Mayor Pelham presented three additional proclamations to Hopewell citizens for making and being a part of Hopewell's history and in recognition of Black History Month, February 2007.

Vice Mayor Pelham read the Proclamation honoring Mr. & Mrs. Gilliam.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Joy Lullene Elizabeth Taylor Gilliam was an only child born to the late Samuel Brown Taylor and Lullene Perrin Taylor on August 3, 1927 on the campus of Clark College in Atlanta, Georgia; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gilliam graduated from Evanston Township High School in Evanston, Illinois in 1944, and attended Roosevelt College in Chicago, then transferred to Virginia Union University graduating in 1949 with a Bachelor's Degree in History; later receiving a Master's of Education from Virginia State College in 1969; and W

HEREAS, she married the late **Reuben L. (Duke) Gilliam** in 1951 and was married for fifty (50) years and resided in the city of Hopewell; and

WHEREAS, together Joy and Reuben had two children, a daughter, **Renee Patrice Gilliam**, and a son, **Reuben Lemuel Gilliam, II**, and two granddaughters, **Toni Brittany** and **Taylor Lindsay Gilliam**; and

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WHEREAS, Joy Gilliam began work as a Tennant Selection Officer, Hopewell Housing Authority from 1951 to 1952, followed by working in Hopewell Public Schools from 1952 to 1964 as a fifth grade teacher at Carter G. Woodson and Harry E. James Elementary Schools; and

WHEREAS, in 1963 Mr. and Mrs. Gilliam filed suit against Hopewell Public Schools to integrate Patrick Copeland Elementary School; the result of the case ruling to desegregate the school established Renee Patrice and Reuben as the first African/American students to attend a then-segregated Public School; and

WHEREAS , in 1967 she began teaching at the Matoaca Laboratory School and retired in 1976 as an Assistant Professor from Virginia State College (now Virginia State University); and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Gilliam, for the past thirty years, devoted her time and energy to her family and her hobbies of sewing, floral arranging, home crafts, cooking and gardening, and she was known to many as a meticulous and skilled seamstress and fashion designer, an excellent cook and homemaker, and a master gardener.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Taylor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of the City of Hopewell, do hereby recognize the achievements of

***Joy Lullene Elizabeth Taylor Gilliam
& Reuben Lemuel Gilliam***

and thus, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Hopewell offer sincere gratitude to her family for her contributions to our City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed the 27th day of February 2007.

*Steven R. Taylor, Mayor,
City of Hopewell, Virginia*

Vice Mayor Pelham presented copies to their daughter Ms. Patrice Gilliam, and to their two granddaughters, Ms. Toni Gilliam and Ms. Taylor Gilliam. Ms. Patrice Gilliam thanked Vice Mayor Pelham, and Councilor Bailey who happens to be her ward representative. Mrs. Gilliam knew that this might happen but did not know that it would happen. Unfortunately, Mrs. Gilliam did not live to see this day, having passed away recently. Ms. Gilliam asked for any of Mrs. Gilliam's fifth grade students from Patrick Copeland Elementary school to stand; there were none.

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Vice Mayor Pelham read the proclamation honoring Rev. Dr. Curtis W. Harris, Sr.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, the Rev. Dr. Curtis W. Harris, Sr. was born in Surry County on July 1, 1924, whose father left the family of six children, and was raised by his devoted mother who influenced his life by her courage and determination in the face of obstacles and tribulations; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Harris was educated in the Surry public school system, and graduated from Carter G. Woodson High School in Hopewell, continued at Virginia Union University, and became an ordained Minister; and

WHEREAS, Curtis W. Harris married Ruth Jones on February 20, 1946 and together they had six children, many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

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WHEREAS, Rev. Harris ran for election to the Hopewell City Council seven times before he was successfully elected to the Ward 2 seat on May 13, 1986, and began his first term on July 1, 1986, and, he is presently serving his sixth consecutive term on City Council; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 1994 he was elected by his fellow Council members as Vice Mayor and served two consecutive terms until June 30, 1998; and

WHEREAS, Curtis W. Harris, Sr. was elected by the Hopewell City Council as the first African/American Mayor and served from July 1, 1998 through June 30, 2000; and

WHEREAS, Rev. Harris has served as the President of the Hopewell NAACP Chapter, President of The Virginia Chapter of the SCLC, Vice-Chairman of the Virginia State Advisory Committee to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights, and a member of the U. S. Committee on Civil Rights, to name a very few of the offices that he has held.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Taylor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of the City of Hopewell, do hereby recognize

*Rev. Dr. Curtis W. Harris, Sr.
First African/American Mayor
City of Hopewell*

and thus, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Hopewell offer sincere gratitude for your contributions to our City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed the 27th day of February 2007.

/s/ Steven R. Taylor
Mayor, City of Hopewell, Virginia

Vice Mayor Pelham presented the proclamation to Rev. & Mrs. Harris. She indicated that this was important to Black History, but that it shortened the distance between Black History and White History. She looked forward to the day when there would be no Black History but it would all be History.

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Vice Mayor Pelham presented the proclamation to Alan K. Archer, first African/American City Manager, and then presented it to him.

P R O C L A M A T I O N

WHEREAS, Alan K. Archer was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria to Beverly Byrd and Elois Scott Archer; attended Leon County, Florida and Chesterfield County, Virginia public schools and graduated from Matoaca High School, Richard Bland College, James Madison University, and Virginia Commonwealth University; and

WHEREAS, he married Helene H. Archer on April 1, 1995 at Gillfield Baptist Church in Petersburg, Virginia; and

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WHEREAS, Alan K. Archer was the first African/American to serve as Hopewell's Assistant City Manager, from June 1999 to August 2004; and

WHEREAS, Alan K. Archer was the first African/American to serve as Hopewell's Interim City Manager, from July 2000 to November 2000, and from April 2004 to August 2004; and

WHEREAS, Alan K. Archer was the first African/American to be appointed as Hopewell's City Manager, from August 2004 to October 2006; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Steven R. Taylor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as mayor of the City of Hopewell, do hereby recognize

Alan K. Archer
First African/American City Manager
City of Hopewell

and thus, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Hopewell offer sincere gratitude for your contributions to our City.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Hopewell to be affixed the 27th day of February 2007.

Steven R. Taylor, Mayor,
City of Hopewell, Virginia

Mr. Archer accepted the proclamation and was honored. He stated that it is a tribute to the first of anything. He could not think of a more rewarding experience than those years working at the City of Hopewell. He was pleased and fortunate to work with the staff, Council, and community of Hopewell. He hoped that his work will inspire others to make a difference no matter where they are. It was an honor and a privilege to be recognized.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS

Charles Bennett, 632 Cedar Level Road, Hopewell, addressed Council regarding the City allegedly forcing people to get rid of their vehicles because they do not have inspection stickers. He received a Police citation because he did not have a sticker on his Colonial amusement vehicle and another vehicle on his property. Although his vehicles were parked on his property, they could not be seen from the road. He had just paid \$1,000 in taxes a week prior. He alleged that Sec. 22-107 City ordinance is what they cited. He further alleged that the City's law is archaic. The DMV law changed and the City's should have changed also. He is planning to sue the City. It's policies are making people hate the Police Department. The DMV law states that, "*you cannot have any ordinances that do not apply to the DMV.*" When he confronted the Police, they called the City Attorney who said, "*that if no one sues, the law stands.*" He stated that he feels Sec. 46.2-100 is the Hopewell City Code section that should have been cited. Further, he implied that 500 feet from his house there are 14 vehicles without anything [stickers] and they are not being cited. There are 50 cars on a lot in the City without stickers. His citation is wrong and illegal. It is fraudulent and illegal Police activity. He needs something from the City Manager that says that these citations will be dropped.

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Anthony N. Sylvester, Commonwealth's Attorney, residence: 109 Crescent Avenue, Hopewell, used to go down to Brown Avenue where his grand mother lived. He would listen to WRVA with his disabled uncle David. They listened to Paul Harvey. Two weeks ago Council went into Closed Session with the Interim Police Chief, James Stanley, and Prince George Police Chief, Eddie Frankenstein to discuss the Drug Task Force. Mr. Sylvester indicated that he had not been invited. Furthermore, he has not been contacted by anyone since that Closed Session. He has received many calls over the past few weeks. He responded that the Commonwealth's Attorney has never been a part of the Multi-Jurisdictional Task Force. The Police Department is. Having three children in Hopewell's public schools and having been dedicated to public service might have been enough to deserve an invitation to that meeting. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office continues to prosecute Task Force operations involving the Hopewell Police Department cases. The only ones not prosecuted are those with issues concerning the Hopewell Police Evidence Room. The Commonwealth's Attorney's office invites and encourages any law enforcement officer from any agency – state, local, federal – to conduct operations in the City of Hopewell. This past Thursday (February 22) he met with the Task Force Coordinator about drug cases. Special Grand Jury meets in Hopewell. The words of the Special Prosecutor to the Task Force who in correspondence written on January 5, 2007 said the following, "To remove Hopewell from the Grand Jury's jurisdiction certainly had little impact on Hopewell's involvement with the Task Force." His office continues to prosecute drug force cases, continues to meet with the Task Force detectives and stands willing and able to do that with each and every other law enforcement agency should they so desire.

Harrison Burt, 2 Hundred Road, Chester, indicated that he disputed the chronology of the plan for Cameron's Landing. He would like to call each of the Council members to discuss development. Councilor Emerson asked for permission to address the speaker.

WAIVE THE RULES

Motion to Waive Council's Rules & Procedures to allow discussion with Mr. Burt, was made by Councilor Emerson and seconded by Councilor Sealey. Upon the roll call on the motion, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITIZENS (Continued)

During discussion, Mr. Burt revealed that the subdivision plans had already been approved by Mr. Altman. There was an issue with the Army Corps of Engineers. After approval there was one road that was required to be moved 50 feet. The plans were resubmitted to the City and Mr. Burt again spoke to Mr. Altman and Mr. Herbert, who allegedly indicated that it would be "fast tracked;" that it would be approved in two weeks. That was on November 28, 2006. The City's engineer, Mark Petersohn left the City's employment, but Mr. Burt was told that it would not affect the project. The City hired a new engineer and a new Interim City Manager. There are changes being thrown at them that are not typical in this City. They were working according to the Subdivision Ordinance as it was. Mr. Burt urged the entire Council to look at this and approve his plans the way he designed it according to the City's ordinance. He asked for Council to tell the City Manager and City Engineer to look at the plans to move the road 50 feet and give full approval. Do not change the game in the middle.

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Councilor Emerson suggested a Work Session to get further information from staff. Mr. Burt received back from the City a 13-page review of changes to his plan. [*Councilor Harris requested to hear from administration about this issue.*] The City Manager concluded that when finished this will be Hopewell's subdivision. If we have questions concerning engineering, or whatever, we feel it is our responsibility to ask them now. Our position is that we set up plans and what we received were deficient in many respects. We have been working with the developers to remedy these issues. We will continue to work with Mr. Burt. Mr. Herbert is hopeful that they will get this resolved. Councilor Bailey acknowledged that the City does not recognize the quality of work that Harrison Burt is known for. The City Manager will provide Council with a report.

Eli Harris, 6108 Perthwood Lane, Matoaca, addressed Council as an actor/director/movie producer. His company is called Midnite Oil. He addressed Council to obtain permission to use the Bureau of Police Interrogation Room to film a scene in his upcoming movie "Jewslim" which is about a Jewish woman and a Muslim man. He has already met with Hopewell Police Captain Greg Taylor and Herbert Bragg, PAC, who have both given preliminary consent. He was seeking Council's blessing on the project as well. Mayor Taylor appreciated their willingness to work with Hopewell. He urged Mr. Harris to continue to work with staff and Administration.

Homer Eliades, 618 Mansion Drive, Hopewell, communicated that he was born and raised in this City and recently turned 78 years of age. He is still interested in his community. He tries to do what is in the best interest of his community. He told Council that there is too much divisiveness. Move forward! He has been working with the Police for almost two years, and the issue has not been resolved yet. He cannot believe that this Council would let this continue on for two years. He listened to our Commonwealth's Attorney about his problems. He does not know the Police Chief, but there was an e-mail that he sent. The comments in that e-mail were uncalled for. It took to task the Commonwealth's Attorney and one of our judges. How will we make all of these people work together for the common goal? Council needs to resolve the differences between the Police and the judicial system and the Commonwealth's Attorney. The investigation still continues in the Police Department. He suggested that Council form a committee and include citizens, the Commonwealth's Attorney, Police Chief, several Council members, and outside citizens, and state what exists now. We want all of these people to move into our community (re: BRAC). Why would they? Do something! Maybe there is a way. It is time to get it over with.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR BAILEY – REQUEST THAT THE NEW "LIBRARY STREET" BE PRIMARILY PEDESTRIAN IN THE INTEREST OF THE SAFETY OF OUR LIBRARY PATRONS

Councilor Bailey explained her opinion about teachers and mothers of small children and how the library will be accessed. She preferred for the new "Library Street" to be primarily pedestrian with potential long-range plans to be for vehicular traffic.

Mr. Altman explained that it is presently designed as a vehicular street with cross walks. The RFP included a vehicular street. It could be closed for festivals such as Hooray for Hopewell, etc. It was the opinion of library staff that it was safe as a vehicular street, it could be controlled, and could be closed to traffic for special events. The City has spent years on this subject under streetscape. It would be safe because of the speed limit and its design.

Councilor Bailey stated that allegedly, no surveys have been done of the patrons of the library, according to Scott Firestine, Assistant Director of the Library. She is hearing more and more concerns from the elderly who use the library as well as mothers of small children. The majority of patrons have brought this issue to her attention again and again.

DISCUSSION: Councilor Cuffey did some research and talked to Scott Firestine, Assistant Library Director, at great length. They also discussed that after six months any safety issues will be readdressed, such as a cross walk/stop light. When the Downtown Plan was put together, one of the elements was to reorient the street down to the river. To close that street would be a tragedy. Once it opens, we can look at it again. The City has a good Downtown Plan. The street that connects Broadway is good. The new street is designed to be closed if necessary. The volume is not such that would create a safety problem. The street is already under construction at an approximately cost of \$400,000 involved in its construction. There will be an addition to the south section at a later date. There were two chances to view that street as recently as today. The investment already made in that street must be protected. There is a safety issue and a concern for children, primarily. If the street ever gets to the river, the street would be changed to primarily pedestrian. Councilor Bailey wants to maximize on Library Street patrons who are primarily the elderly and young children. She was saying to close the street to vehicular traffic during peak hours. She was the only one who participated in the research group (with the architects) for the library. There was great concern about having to cross the street to get to the library. We should be interested in protecting the lives of our citizens.

Motion was made by Councilor Bailey, and seconded by Vice Mayor Pelham, to resolve to designate the new Library Street, connecting Appomattox Street and Cawson Street, as primarily for pedestrian traffic. Upon the roll call on the motion, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	NO
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
<i>(filed a Transactional Disclosure Statement – owner of 206 Appomattox Street)</i>		
Councilor Harris	-	NO
Councilor Emerson		NO
Councilor Sealey	-	NO
Mayor Taylor	-	NO

**CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – VICE MAYOR PELHAM – ESTABLISH A STRATEGY
IN REGARD TO THE RELOCATION OF THE RESIDENTS AND THE PURCHASE OF THE
BLUFFS**

Vice Mayor Pelham asked Council to consider establishment of a strategy in regard to the relocation of the residents and the purchase of the Bluffs.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham to reconsider the City's purchase agreement on the Bluffs Apartment complex and pursue other options for the property, in particular a public/private partnership with a private developer who would purchase the property, thereby enabling the City to focus on a plan for aiding the residents in any eventual relocation which may occur.

Councilor Sealey raised a Point of Order. There was discussion in Work Session about softening the blow to the tenants. He thought that was what this motion would deal with. City Attorney Wilmot stated that the agenda stated "relocation assistance." The motion to reconsider the purchase did not appear on the agenda. To further discuss the issue, Council would need a motion to Waive the Rules and a vote of 5/2 in favor.

The City Attorney indicated that the item on the agenda appears, "Request a Strategy for Bluffs Residents Relocation. I propose that Council establish a strategy in regard to the relocation of the residents and the purchase of the Bluffs." In Mr. Wilmot's opinion, focus of the item is on relocation assistance and not on a motion to reconsider. So, in his opinion, this item does not appear on the agenda.

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In order to consider the matter, Vice Mayor Pelham would need a motion to Waive the Rules and would require at least a 5/2 vote.

Vice Mayor Pelham withdrew her **motion**.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham to reinstate her original motion. The City Attorney again ruled that it was not a valid motion.

Motion was made by Councilor Bailey to continue to discuss the matter. The City Attorney ruled that it was an improper motion and was not on the agenda.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham and seconded by Councilor Bailey, to Waive Council's Rules & Procedures to consider a motion to reconsider the City's purchase agreement on the Bluffs Apartment complex and pursue other options for the property, in particular a public/private partnership with a private developer who would purchase the property, thereby enabling the City to focus on a plan for aiding the residents in any eventual relocation which may occur. Upon the roll call on the motion, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	NO
Councilor Emerson		NO
Councilor Sealey	-	NO
Mayor Taylor	-	NO

The **motion** failed.





Motion was made by Councilor Bailey to challenge the rule of the parliamentarian.

The City Attorney stated that Under Council Rule 101, the parliamentarian's ruling shall be final and binding.

CITIZEN/COUNCILOR REQUEST – COUNCILOR CUFFEY – BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2007 CALENDAR

Councilor Cuffey's objective was to identify one African/American for each day of February which is Black History Month. It will continue until there is one local African/American for each day of that month. He received submissions as late as today. He may move to adopt the calendar at a later time. He is appreciative of the past achievements of African/Americans and how they have impacted today's world and himself.

*Red and underlined indicates the actual date the event occurred.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH February 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Some Notable Hopewellians:</u> Nathan Adams, Julia Allen, Ralph Conrad, Sandra Cornell, Linwood Crenshaw, Rudolph Dunbar, Elizabeth Epps, Renate Harris, Keith Hayes, Shirley Jacobs, Fara Jenkins-Steves, Katie Jones, Shirley Kennedy, Clarence Nicholas, Charles Pender, Annie Pettaway, Jacqueline Shepperson, Cassandra Spencer, Myria Thompson, Robert Thompson, Robyn Thompson, Gladys Washington, and Sophia West-Bey.				1) <u>1960</u> 1 st sit-ins at white only lunch counter in Woolworth's, Greensboro NC	2) <u>1990</u> S.African Pres.F.W. de Klerk promised to free <u>Nelson Mandela</u> 	3) <u>1870</u> 15 th Amendment (Black Suffrage) passed
4) 1982 <u>C. Ray Edmonds</u> 1 st African American elected to Hopewell City Council & 1 st Vice	5) <u>1994</u> Byron De La Beckwith sentenced to life in prison for <u>Medgar Evers</u> 30 yrs after crime	6) 1986 <u>Curtis W. Harris, Sr.</u> elected to City Council, Vice Mayor & 1 st Mayor(<u>Hopewell</u> II)	7) <u>1926 Carter G. Woodson</u> founded Negro History Week, which is now Black History Month (<u>Hopewell</u>)	8) 1994 <u>James W. Patterson, Sr.</u> elected to City Council, Vice Mayor & Mayor	9) 2006 <u>Brenda Pelham</u> 1 st female African/American Vice Mayor	10) 2003 <u>Winston O. Odom</u> – 1 st African/American School Supt. (<u>Hopewell</u>)
11) <u>1990</u> S.African resistance leader, <u>Nelson Mandela</u> , released from prison after 27+ years	12) <u>1909</u> National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People	13) 1989 <u>Juanita Chambers</u> 1 st Female African/American School Board	14) <u>Avon Miles</u> – 2005 Chairman, School Board (<u>Hopewell</u>)	15) <u>Alan Archer</u> 1 st African/American City Manager (<u>Hopewell</u>)	16) <u>John E. Tunstall, Jr.</u> 1 st African/American Fire Chief (<u>Hopewell</u>)	17) <u>Bernie Boone</u> CEO John Randolph Medical Center (<u>Hopewell</u>)
18) <u>John Hayes</u> Recreation Comm. Member since 1990 (<u>Hopewell</u>)	19) <u>Florine Martin</u> – Senior Citizens Advisory Council since 1991 (<u>Hopewell</u>)	20) <u>1895 Frederick Douglass</u> , abolitionist, author, and orator died 	21) <u>1965</u> Black nationalist leader <u>Malcolm X</u> was assassinated. 	22) <u>Greg Cuffey</u> 1 st African/American Ward 7 Representative on City Council (<u>Hopewell</u>)	23) <u>Booker T. Washington</u> , 1856–1915, American educator, b. Franklin Co., Va.	24) <u>L. Douglas Wilder</u> , 1 st elected Governor, 1990-94 Virginia
25) <u>1870 Hiram Revels</u> became the 1 st black U.S. Senator Taking over the term of Jefferson Davis 	26) <u>Thurgood Marshall</u> , 1908–93, U.S. lawyer and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1967–91)	27) <u>Martin Luther King, Jr.</u> 1929–1968, <i>American clergyman and civil rights leader</i>	28) <u>Jackie Robinson</u> , Major league baseball player: 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers.	US Secy of State: <u>Colin Powell</u> , 2001–2004; 1 st Female: <u>Condoleezza Rice</u> , 2005–	Federal Judge: <u>William H. Hastie</u> , 1946; 1 st Female: <u>Constance B. Motley</u> , 1966	Congressional Medal of Honor: <u>Sgt. Wm. H. Carney</u> for bravery during Civil War, received medal 1900

REGULAR BUSINESS – DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS – 2007-2008 CHALLENGE GRANT, VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE ARTS

The Historic Hopewell Foundation (HHF) is seeking a Challenge Grant from the State Commission for the Arts. The Department of Recreation and Parks must apply for them as City dollars are used for the match. HHF has requested to maintain the grant amount of \$4,150.00 as the City's match.

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This grant will enable HHF to conduct art and art-related programs at Weston Manor, which programs they will be expanding.

The City will file for the grant, under the same conditions as in previous years:

1. The grant will not be accepted unless the City's FY 07-08 adopted budget includes the matching funds;
2. Filing the grant application in no way binds the City to budget matching funds; and
3. Should the grant request be denied or only partially funded, the City would still make available to HHF, for art and art-related programs, whatever local funds have been allowed in the City's FY 07-08 General Fund Budget.

Motion was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to resolve to authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks to apply for a Challenge Grant from the State Commission for the Arts, on behalf of the Historic Hopewell Foundation (HHF), for art and art-related programs at Weston Manor, with matching funds from the City in the amount of \$4,150, with the above conditions. Upon the roll call on the motion, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

(Councilor Harris left at 9:39 PM for another meeting.)

REGULAR BUSINESS – COMMUNITY VIDEO & BUSINESS SHOWCASE AGREEMENT

The City of Hopewell was recently introduced to an exciting new technology that could have a tremendous, positive impact for promoting the public and the private assets of the City of Hopewell. The proposal is for services for, and participation in, a three-year promotional campaign conducted by CGI Communications, Inc. e-LocalLink, a division of CGI, will produce a series of online videos to showcase the assets and attributes that Hopewell has to offer to its residents, its visitors, and its business community. These videos would then be accessible for viewing via the City's website (www.ci.hopewell.va.us). The City of Hopewell is dedicated to making the community a great place to live, work, shop and conduct business. This project would highlight the advantages of living in and doing business here in Hopewell.

The Community Video & Business Showcase Agreement was reviewed by City Attorney Wilmot.

Herbert Bragg, PAC, gave a brief presentation. City Manager Steve Herbert urged Council to go to the Petersburg or Charlottesville websites to view the same products. They use it and they are very nice.

Motion was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to resolve to authorize the City Manager to execute the Community Video & Business Showcase Agreement with CGI Communications, Inc. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

February 27, 2007

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

AGREEMENT

This agreement is between CGI Communications, Inc. and the City of Hopewell, Virginia and shall remain in effect from the date it is signed by both parties until the completion of the three years of videos available for viewing on the www.ci.hopewell.va.us website homepage. The term of this agreement shall automatically renew unless either party gives 60 days written notice of termination or modification prior to expiration.

CGI Communications, Inc. and its e-LocalLink division shall provide a Community Video Showcase as follows:

- Website Welcome video from our Mayor or other civic leader (approx. 1 minutes in duration)
- 3 additional videos (approx 1 minute in duration) to highlight various aspects of your community and/or organization
- Script writing and video content consultation
- A videographer to come to your location to film videos
- All aspects of video production and editing, from raw footage to final video including professional voiceovers and background music
- Final draft of Community Video Showcase content subject to your approval
- Patent-pending OneClick™ Technology and encoding of all videos into multiple streaming digital formats to play on all computer systems, browsers, and internet connection speeds; recognized player formats include WindowsMedia® and QuickTime®
- Store and stream all videos on CGI's dedicated server
- Viewer access of the Community Video Showcase from your website shall be facilitated by e-LocalLink providing HTML source code for graphic link to be prominently displayed on the www.ci.hopewell.va.us website homepage. Code will be provided immediately upon completion and approval of finished videos
- Business sponsors allowed on the perimeter of video panels
- Duration of sponsor participation will be one year and e-LocalLink is solely responsible for annual sponsorship fulfillment including all related aspects of marketing, production, printing, and distribution
- e-LocalLink will own copyrights of the master Community Video Showcase
- The City of Hopewell, VA will assume no cost or liability for this project

The City of Hopewell, VA shall provide the following:

- A letter of introduction for the program on your organization's letterhead
- Assist with the content and script for the Community Video Showcase
- Agrees to give e-LocalLink the right to use organization's name in connection with the preparation, production, and marketing of the program set forth herein only
- Agrees to place a graphic link on the www.ci.hopewell.va.us website homepage within 10 business days of receipt of HTML source code and have it remain there for the term of the agreement
- Provides e-LocalLink exclusive streaming video rights for the program described herein only

We, the undersigned, understand the above information and have full authority to sign this agreement.

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City of Hopewell, VA

Signature: _____

Name Printed: Steve Herbert

Title: [Interim] City Manager

Date: _____

CGI Communications, Inc.

Signature: /s/ Nicole Rongo

Name Printed: Nicole Rongo

Title: Marketing Manager

Date: 02/05/2007

REGULAR BUSINESS – SCHOOL BOARD – DR. ODOM TO OUTLINE CREATION OF A LOCAL JOINT BRAC COMMITTEE (CITY and SCHOOL BOARD)

March Altman, Assistant City Manager, and Dr. Winston Odom, School Superintendent, gave a brief presentation. The School Board is developing BRAC preparedness for this coming school year. We are only 20 months away from 2009. There is an increase in enrollment already.

DRAFT
JOINT SCHOOL & CITY
BRAC TASKFORCE

1. Task Force Membership
2. Focus Areas – City
 - a. Regional Transportation
 - b. Workforce/Childcare
 - c. Housing Impact
 - d. Civilian and Military Contractors
 - e. Employment Opportunities
3. Focus Areas – School
 - a. Demographic Impact
 - b. Housing Impact
 - c. Facility Impact
 - d. Communication/Marketing/Military Transition Webpage
 - e. Student Diversity
 - f. Employment Opportunities
 - g. Program Changes
 - h. Military Child in Transition and Development
 - i. Financing school Expansion
4. Time Table
 - a. 2009-2011
 - b. Increase of 300 students (6.7%) based on current City Military and Civilian population
5. Leadership
 - a. City and School Leaders

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Pelham, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to resolve to approve and file the Creation of a Local Join BRAC Committee (City and School Board). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes

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Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – BUREAU OF FIRE – MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH FORT LEE

The Hopewell Bureau of Fire requested City Council to grant approval for the City Manager and/or his designee to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement on behalf of the City of Hopewell. The City Attorney reviewed the agreement and stated that it appears to include all legal required provisions, and does not appear to include any obviously illegal or inappropriate provision.

The Bureau of Fire has an existing Mutual Aid Agreement with Fort Lee for fire protection services. The new Mutual Aid Agreement was initiated because the Department of Army requires Mutual Aid Agreements to be reviewed and approved after a given time period. The agreement will not obligate the Bureau to any additional requirements or services than it currently provides under the existing Mutual Aid Agreement.

Motion was made by Councilor Emerson, and seconded by Councilor Harris, to resolve to grant approval for the City Manager and/or his designee to sign the Mutual Aid Agreement with Fort Lee. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Councilor Harris, and seconded by Councilor Sealey, to appoint Queen Harris to the HRHA for a term extending through October 31, 2007. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

REGULAR BUSINESS – LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Herbert Bragg, Legislative Liaison, presented the Legislative Committee Report (filed in the City Clerk's Office). He commended the Committee: Councilor Bailey, Councilor Cuffey, and Councilor Harris for their work and input. They recently wrote a letter to Governor Kaine to ask for assistance with the City's budgetary requests.

Mayor Taylor expressed appreciation for the efforts of Mr. Bragg and the Legislative Committee. He would like to see them take our legislative package and take a score card and grade the legislators.

REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

Councilor Bailey encouraged everyone to attend the Town Hall Meeting on Monday, March 5, 2005, at 7:00 PM at the John Randolph Foundation, 112 North Main Street, Hopewell. It will be a give-and-take session for citizens. She has invited City department heads to attend. Constitutional Officers are also invited. It will be a good opportunity to get information to the public. The key to a healthy community is an informed community. She encouraged all Council members to attend.

Councilor Cuffey thanked the City Clerk for her help on the Black History Month calendar. He is planning a Ward #7 meeting during the month of April; date to be announced. He met with several citizens; they feel better represented as a result. He attended the 79th Academy Awards function at the Science Museum in Richmond on Sunday night and was very impressed.

Councilor Sealey spoke at the Brighter Living Assisted Living Facility's 7th Anniversary last Saturday. He learned a lot. When the BRAC situation is complete, there will be 1,200 contractors and families in this area. This will be the second largest military training site in the country. Commercial and retail development in the next year and a half in Hopewell comes to \$32.7 million. Housing starts in Hopewell in construction right now, or ready to go through the approval process, come to \$142.7 million. That is a lot of growth. We are moving in the right direction. He thanked Herbert Bragg, Jo Turek, and others for compiling the information.

Councilor Emerson apologized for raising his voice earlier in the meeting. This Council is not together. It is not any closer to being together. And, it is not getting any better. The City really would have a great opportunity downtown and all around the City, for business, education, etc. We disagree about many small issues up here; he will try not to become so emotional.

Vice Mayor Pelham has heard in the past that Council micro-manages too much. Some citizens say that they don't micro-manage enough. A Town Hall meeting is to bring all concerns to the forefront. It welcomes all directors, citizens and Council. She thanked persons who were recognized tonight. Her goal is to reach a time when there is no Black History Month, when it is an integral part of the history of this country. She offered thanks and congratulations.

Mayor Taylor complimented the Beacon Theatre for opening its doors to the community recently for Black History Month events. There are many opportunities ahead for us. Over a number of years we have been a City of declining numbers; now the numbers are rising again. He congratulated Councilor Emerson for the fine work on his building at Sixth and Elm Streets. He has leased space to a retail developer and it should open this Friday, March 2. The building is awesome and will generate revenue for the City.

The Mayor called for a 10-minute recess before going into Closed Session.

Motion was made by Councilor Cuffey and seconded by Vice Mayor Pelham, to Waive Council's Rules & Procedures to add to the Closed Session Discussion Of Threats To Public Safety, in accordance with Virginia Code Sec. 2.2-3711(A)(20). Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

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REGULAR BUSINESS – APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Motion was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Bailey to appoint Helen Wyche, Ward #2, and Debbie Randolph, Ward #1, to the Neighborhood Watch Advisory Council for terms extending through October 31, 2008. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

CLOSED SESSION

At 10:18 PM Council reconvened into Closed Session.

OPEN SESSION

At 11:45 PM Council convened into Open Session. Councilors responded to the question: “Were the only matters discussed in the Closed Meeting public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements; and public business matters identified in the motion to convene into Closed Session?” Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Mayor Taylor	-	yes
Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes

ADJOURN

At 11:46 PM, **motion** was made by Councilor Sealey, and seconded by Councilor Emerson, to adjourn the meeting. Upon the roll call, the vote resulted:

Vice Mayor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Cuffey	-	yes
Councilor Bailey	-	yes
Councilor Emerson		yes
Councilor Sealey	-	yes
Mayor Taylor	-	yes

Steven R. Taylor, Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk